

# Labelling System for Genetically Modified Foods

Food Labelling Division,  
Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan

# Labelling System for Genetically Modified Foods

- ❑ No problem of safety in genetically modified (GM) agricultural products (Food Sanitation Act)
- ❑ The mandatory labelling system for genetically modified foods was instituted in 2001 (Food Labelling Act at present)
  - 8 Agricultural products (\*1) and 33 processed foods (\*2) are subject to the mandatory labelling requirements
  - Labelling is not required for the processed foods in which modified DNA etc. are undetectable after processing (soy sauce, vegetable oil, etc.)

## Example of Mandatory Labelling

Cases identifying genetically modified agricultural products



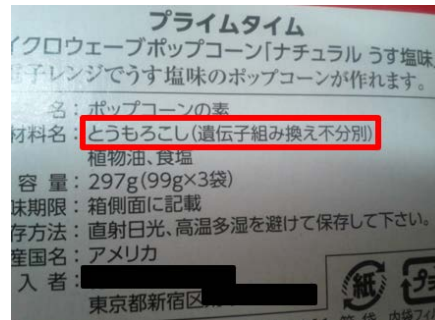
Papaya (genetically modified) etc.



Cases not identifying (not segregating) GM agricultural products and non-GM agricultural products



Corn (GM not segregated) etc.

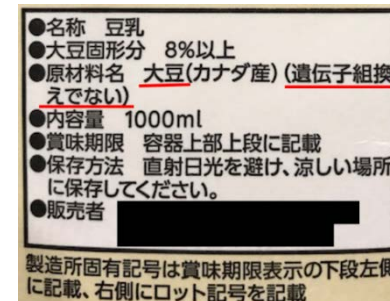


## Example of Voluntary Labelling

Cases identifying non-GM agricultural products (possible to label the foods other than the 33 processed foods)



Soybean (not genetically modified) etc.

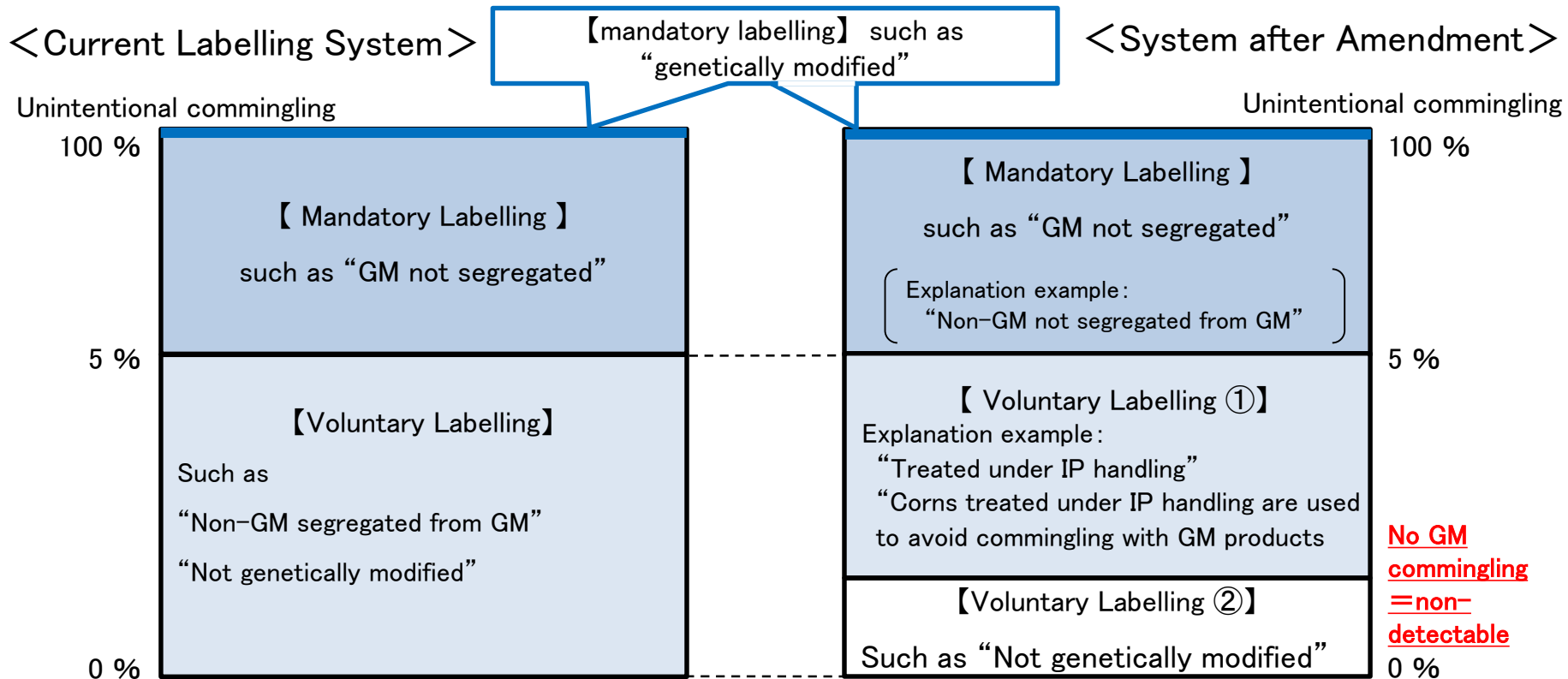


\*1 Soybean, corn, potato, alfalfa, sugar beet, oil-seed rape, cotton seed, and papaya, which are not cultivated for edible use domestically.

\*2 Foods in which modified DNA etc. are detectable after processing (bean curd, canned corn, etc.).

# Outline of GM Labelling (voluntary labelling) Amendment

- ❑ Voluntary labelling system for GM was amended in April this year (2019) in order to provide consumers with correct information for preventing false recognition and enlarging opportunity to make a choice.
- ❑ Amendment points are as follows:
  - ① Soybeans and corns treated under identity preserved handling and the commingling GM product is 5% or less may be labelled as “properly treated under IP handling,” a statement in accordance with the fact.
  - ② In case that no GM product commingling is recognized, the statement of “not genetically modified” may be labelled.
- ❑ The new system comes into force as from April 1, 2023.



Note; GM labelling and voluntary labelling are based on the implementation of identity preserved handling by a business operator

## COI Disclosure Information

Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan

HASUMI Yuka

**I have no financial relationships to disclose**